



## City of Wheatland

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### CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Date: June 22, 2010

### STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:

**Subject:** Wheatland Community Garden

**Prepared by:** Tim Raney, Community Development Director

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#### **Recommendation:**

City staff recommends that the City Council receive information and provide direction on the proposed Wheatland Community Garden.

#### **Discussion:**

In 2008, the Wheatland City Council approved the Wheatland Community Vision, which provided a series of principles intended to guide the future of the city. These principles included direction on maintaining and enhancing the quality of life of the Wheatland residents while also retaining its long-standing connection to agriculture. The Vision identified the use of community gardens as an opportunity to incorporate urban agriculture into Wheatland's parks and open space. Community gardens have also been recognized to provide the following benefits:

- Community gardens encourage a sense of community, bringing families and neighbors together to plant and harvest their own food.
- Community members have a chance to socialize, spend time outdoors, and invest time in community and neighborhood.
- Community gardens help residents save money on produce.
- City parkland becomes more accessible and used by the community, and parks can become safe due to more regular activity in them.

An opportunity to provide the Wheatland residents with a community garden has been identified by city staff. The Wheatland Community Garden has been proposed to be located in the city-owned parkland connecting Park Place Park and Toddler Park (see Exhibit 1). This parkway currently includes a drainage swale and a line of oak trees; however, the southeast corner of the parkway has a significant open area that would be suitable for a community garden.

A preliminary layout of the garden has been prepared (see Exhibit 2). The plan assumes a total garden size of 50 feet by 150 feet, although the parkway has enough land to increase length of the garden by an additional 150 feet. The garden has been designed to have up to 24 total planters; 20 are sized at 12 feet by 4 feet and four are U-shaped for handicap access. The city would provide water to the community garden through a connection to the Park Place Park irrigation system. Raised water spigots with hoses would be provided near the planters. The perimeter of the garden would be secured with a decorative fence with a key-code lock. The Community Garden would also include a gathering area with picnic tables and benches, work tables, and a shed.

With city council support and direction, an overall Wheatland Community Garden Program will be developed addressing the funding, construction, and long term operation of the garden. The program is expected to specifically provide the following information:

- A budget and schedule to complete the community garden.
- A marketing and financing plan intended to obtain the entire cost of the construction through sponsors, donations, and grants.
- A detailed site plan including design plans for the benches and shed.
- An outreach program to encourage participation from the local residents.
- A set of bylaws intended to create a community association to manage and operate the facility.
- An appropriate fee program for those using the garden such that the planters can be leased out to members of the community for a nominal annual fee plus a cleaning deposit.
- A set of governing rules providing standards for types of allowable plants, maintenance of planters (including weeding), use of chemicals, and hours of operation and access.

Staff is requesting direction and support for city staff to begin preparing the Wheatland Community Garden Program. Once the program is completed, sponsors and donors will be sought to contribute toward money and materials for the construction effort.

### **Alternatives:**

The council could choose to not support the establishment of the Wheatland Community Garden or direct staff to identify a different site for the garden.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Because the Wheatland Community Garden Program will be crafted to seek funding from sponsors, donations, and grants, the fiscal impact on the city should be minimal.

# PROPOSED WHEATLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN

## EXHIBIT 1 Proposed Location



## EXHIBIT 2

### Draft Design Layout

